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Newton Centre MS. J. 136

Rev. Amos A. Phelps,
Boston, Mass.

See James M. Buffum
or
William Baskett.

July 5. 1857.



Newton Centre

Prof. J. A. Riley.

in her way. So far as we are concerned, there is no hindrance in her way; by expressing a determination to remain, she runs no risk in respect to her husband's coming to the North, for she has already every human assurance that Abram shall come, if she decides to remain. We adhere to our engagement. We are pledged to heaven and earth for Abram's being sent for, as soon as Clarissa makes the ground clear for us to move and for Abram to move. But until she does make the ground clear, both we and Abram are in an embarrassed condition and can turn neither to the right hand nor to the left. We have not even said, that in order to warrant our acting, Mr and Mrs Collins must heartily assent to her remaining. However anxious we are that all concerned should act from the heart, yet that is a point about which we have no responsibility. The only question with us, is, is it understood on all sides that Clarissa is to remain at the North.

In the present posture of the case, it is probably my duty to have a personal interview with Clarissa. This I intend to seek at an early opportunity; after which you may rely upon my seeing you or writing to you.

Respectfully yours, H. J. Ripley.

that Clarissa has concluded to remain at the North. We presume not to question the truth of your statement respecting her desires; nor have we ground to question the truth of Mr and Mrs Collins's statements. Both the statements may correctly represent what Clarissa has said at different times and in different views of the case.

We, then, you perceive, are in an embarrassed condition for want of declarations on the part of Clarissa which would make all see that she really does desire to live at the North. The contingency too is wholly on her part, not at all on Abram's, nor on ours.

Such was the view of the matter presented by yourself and Mr Fuller in your first interview with us. The case was stated by you in the following manner: Clarissa wishes to remain at the North, but will not stay unless she can be assured that Abram will be sent for in the event of her staying; and all that she wishes, in order to say positively that she will stay, is, to be assured by Mr and Mrs Ripley that Abram shall be sent for. On the very spot, instantly, fully, most cheerfully, we declared, that if she remains in this part of the country, her husband shall be sent for; and not only by verbal declarations to yourselves, but also by written promise to her, have we given her this assurance, and thus removed the only obstacle which, it was represented to us, stood in the way of her fully concluding to remain. The responsibility, then, rests on her, not on us. We gave her the assurance she requested; we removed the obstacle which stood

Newton Centre, July 5, 1837.



Rev. A. A. Phelps:

Dear Sir, It was no part of my intention, in my note of the 30th ult. to write in a mysterious manner, or in any way to embarrass you, or any one else. On the contrary, I wished to avoid all possible misunderstanding on your part. And sure I am, that not the slightest desire to express the least hint of impropriety in regard to yourself, was in my heart. I doubt not, you will do me the justice to believe that I wish to act in simplicity and godly sincerity towards all who are concerned in the matter which has occasioned this correspondence.

You wish to know what I mean by "proper assurances that Clarissa is to remain in this part of the country." I mean simply this; information which places it beyond a doubt that Clarissa desires and has determined to remain at the North. Without such information, I shall not be able to assure Abram, that he may come to the North without fear of a sad disappointment. If Clarissa really desires to remain at the North, she can say so in a manner which all will understand and which will show Mr and Mrs Collins that she does truly wish to remain. Now your letter of the 27th ult. shows, that so far as Clarissa's expressions go, the question of her desires and determination is undecided. The day after we received the letter just mentioned, Mr and Mrs Collins called on us, and said plainly that Clarissa does not wish to remain at the North, and that they had requested her to come to a decision one way or the other, because they wished not to be further perplexed. Now, dear Sir, it is not plain to our minds

Prof. J. A. Phelps.